

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1950

DIA WASHDC/AH-8// IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0837

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PDIP, MI, OS (CHIWAYA, HENRY F)

SUBJ: DATT'S POSITION IN MALAWI

REF: LILONGWE 807

1. MINEXTAFF PERMSEC KACHINGWE CONVOKED ME TO HIS OFFICE 10 A.M. JUNE 1 WHERE HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MKANDAWIRE, NGWIRI'S DEPUTY. KACHINGWE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT BANDA HAD REVIEWED THE AIDE MEMOIRE I SUBMITTED MAY 29 AND HAD FURTHER DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIM AND GENERAL MATEWERE AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD "AGREED AND ACCEPTED" ALL POINTS MADE IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE. IT WAS, THEREFORE, AS KACHINGWE PUT IT, NOT A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AS FAR AS PRESIDENT WAS CONCERNED. NONETHELESS, GEN MATEWERE INFORMED PRESIDENT THAT HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF COL. ABERNATHY WOULD DEPART SINCE THERE MIGHT BE A LACK OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE ON BOTH SIDES. KACHINGWE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOW STRICTLY MATTER OF "PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS."

2. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTIONS, KACHINGWE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FORMAL DOCUMENT PRESENTED TO US
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REQUESTING ABERNATHY'S DEPARTURE, WHEREUPON I INQUIRED IF THEREFORE ABERNATHY WOULD BE ABLE TO DEPART "GRACEFULLY." HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY AND SAID THAT A MONTH OR TWO WOULD APPEAR TO BE ACCEPTABLE BUT IT WOULD DEPEND ON US, NOT ON THEM. IN MEANTIME, HE ASSUMED THAT ABERNATHY WOULD REFRAIN FROM FURTHER CONTACTS WITH MALAWI MILITARY KACHINGWE THEN ADDED

THAT GOM WOULD WELCOME ASSIGNMENT OF NEW ATTACHE.

3. KACHINGWE AND MKANDAWIRE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT BANDA DID NOT WISH THIS TO BE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MATTER. KACHINGWE ALSO STRESSED THAT "AMBASSADOR STEVENSON SHOULD HAVE COME TO ME CONCERNING THIS VISA CASE" RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH A NON-DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL. IF THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE, HE ADDED, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HEAD OFF MATEWIRE'S DISPLEASURE.

4. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT TRANSFER ORDERS BE ISSUED TO COL ABERNATHY ALLOWING HIMSELF AND FAMILY ENOUGH TIME FOR DISCREET DEPARTURE.

5. ON RELATED SUBJECT, KACHINGWE SAID THAT HE WOULD REVIEW CASE OF MAJOR BICKEL WITH MILITARY TO BE SURE THAT THIS PROGRAM AND OVERALL U.S.-MALAWI RELATIONS ON MILITARY SIDE ARE NOT FURTHER UNDERMINED.

6. FURTHER COMMENTS FOLLOW.

SHEINBAUM

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NNN

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